



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : H04N 7/173, 5/44		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 98/47284
			(43) International Publication Date: 22 October 1998 (22.10.98)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US97/17033		(74) Agents: TRIPOLI, Joseph, S. et al.; GE and RCA Licensing Management Operation, Inc., P.O. Box 5312, Princeton, NJ 08543 (US).	
(22) International Filing Date: 23 September 1997 (23.09.97)			
(30) Priority Data: 60/043,539 14 April 1997 (14.04.97) US		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).	
(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): THOMSON CONSUMER ELECTRONICS, INC. [US/US]; 10330 North Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46290-1024 (US).			
(72) Inventors; and			
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): HAILEY, James, Edwin [US/US]; 7239 Creekside Lane, Indianapolis, IN 46250 (US). JOHNSON, Michael, Wayne [US/US]; 7316 Cobblestone West Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46236 (US). MORRISON, Hugh, Boyd [US/US]; 7454 Galloway Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46250 (US). LOGAN, Robert, Joseph [US/US]; 4302 Sagamore Trail, Indianapolis, IN 46220 (US). COMER, Robert, Skipworth [US/US]; 103 East 106th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46280 (US). CROSBY, Sheila, Renee [US/US]; 325 Hampton Court, Crystal Lake, IL 60012 (US).			

Published

With international search report.

(54) Title: **SYSTEM FOR FORMING PROGRAM GUIDE INFORMATION FOR USER INITIATION OF CONTROL AND COMMUNICATION FUNCTIONS**

(57) Abstract

A video decoder system provides a Program Guide User interface for User operation of functions including Email, telephone, Internet access, fax, home control, and video-phone functions. A method for forming a program guide allowing a User to select a function involves receiving program guide information for display from at least one source (305, 310). The program guide information including User selectable menu options is formatted for display (315). Access data retrieved from memory enables initiation of communication between the decoder and a device external to the decoder in response to User selection of a displayed program guide menu option. Program map information is generated that associates a displayed User selectable menu option with access data that enables initiation of communication between the decoder and the external device (330). Also, the decoder may generate User selectable menu options for display in the program guide (335, 340, 345).

